



MONTEREY NEWS

February 2003
VOLUME XXXIII • Number 2



The Town

January: Cold and Quick

January seemed to pass very quickly with only three meetings of the Select-board, each with a full agenda. The meetings began and ended with consideration of issues raised by a letter from the Lake Garfield Association. The Board was taken aback to first read the letter in the Monterey News, although it had been delivered to the Town Offices over the holidays. At the most recent meeting of the Board, representatives of

the LGA were present to discuss the various points raised.

The LGA is particularly concerned about how and when the drawdown is conducted because of its effectiveness in maintaining the quality of the lake. They also wanted clarification of the responsibility and legal status of the Town relative to Lake Garfield. Bonnie Jurgenson, Monterey's Administrative Assistant, reported on this year's drawdown process and what we can expect for the future. An order of conditions issued by the Conservation Commission in 1989 was valid for three years, but the

Town neglected to reapply and has been conducting the drawdown under an expired order of conditions for the past decade, in possible violation of the Wetlands Protection Act. For this reason the Town had to undertake a stricter and more costly application this year. The state allowed the drawdown to proceed although only to the extent needed for flood control. As of February new generic guidelines are expected to be in place statewide to streamline the process for the increasing number of towns resorting to drawdowns to combat the infestation of weeds.



George Emmons

Monterey's new firetruck arrived on January 10 (see story on p. 4).

A great deal of discussion focussed on the concerns of LGA members over the deterioration of the lake and what actions they might take to protect it. Of greatest concern was nutrient pollution from the entire Lake Garfield watershed. Any fertilizer, logging runoff, erosion, or septic tank seepage within the watershed will eventually impact the lake. Possible solutions included voluntary testing or replacement of septic systems, reduced lawn size, border plantings to buffer the lakefront, use of slow release fertilizers or none at all. The LGA representatives emphasized that they plan to focus on educating their membership on ways to help save the lake. "Lakefest will be green this year," said Kathy Frome, association president. The ever increasing presence of purple loosestrife was also discussed. As an invasive species it is taking over in many areas. Removal can be by cutting down and digging out, introduction of weevils or chemicals. Landowners are reminded that any action they take to remove it needs approval from the Conservation Commission.

Public Access for All: Balancing Needs

Last but not least was the issue of "Public Access" to Lake Garfield. While everyone acknowledges the need for boat access, the consensus of those present was that as long as the Public Access Board continues to focus on the site of the current beach for their needs nothing will be resolved. Public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the beach where it is and would not tolerate the paving over or reduction of beach area. John Sylbert commented that nothing has happened for thirty years because the Public Access Board had resisted looking for other solutions and in the meantime has passed up many opportunities to find another affordable site.

At their first meeting on January 13, the committee appointed by the board to

revisit the issue with a fresh view spent almost the entire meeting reviewing past history. A letter from the state dated May 1974 refers to "access for a limited number of small boats," although the only plan available shows parking for 17 trailers and as many cars. A suggestion that boat access might better be had on Brewer Pond was shrugged off as too expensive, though any solution is going to be costly. Jen Wright, the state's representative and chair of the committee emphasized the commitments made by the Town thirty years ago, without acknowledging that the needs of a majority of the townspeople would be ignored by honoring them. Finally, plans were made to undertake a new survey, to examine any available public lands and to meet again on February 10. Anyone interested in the future of the beach is urged to attend.

Business

Subcontract bids for plumbing, heating and electrical work on the Town Hall were opened. No decisions have been reached yet.

The Finance Committee has begun the process of putting together the town budget by requesting input from all the Town Boards. They anticipate responses over the next month and will then begin meeting in earnest.

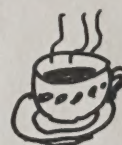
The Assessors have announced extra office hours for Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m.

Now that tax payments are starting to come in everyone is breathing a little easier. Peter Brown reported that the mood at the Mass. Municipal Association meeting was one of gloom and doom although no one actually knows where the axe will fall budget-wise.

In the Know

A recent bill from Town Counsel for \$2,000 to defend an appeal in tax court prompted the Selectboard to require that they be informed beforehand when boards need to consult Town Counsel. In this case the Board was not even aware that the case, in which the Town prevailed, was in Court.

Long known for his attention to town affairs, former Selectboard member Richard Tryon visited the Selectboard to make several observations and suggestions. Uppermost in his mind was the potential long-term cost to the Town of stricter federal guidelines in the management of storm runoff and the Town Shed area. He urged the board to band together with other towns to resist this intrusion into town affairs, especially since no funding can be anticipated from the state. He also urged the board to reinstate the Town Report as a form of communication within



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the Town and to include more detailed financial information about various department expenditures so that citizens would be more informed. The board pointed out that this information could be had from Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier but is not generally available to the public. Mr. Tryon once again suggested that the board consider changing Highway Department hours during the winter months. An earlier start and end to the day could potentially cut back on overtime pay, which can become significant during snow season. The Board will refer the matter to Director of Operations Maynard Forbes.

Candace Thayer of The Bidwell House Museum contacted the Selectboard for their input on making it a greater part of town life.

Marta Makuc will be looking into childcare for Town Meeting.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee met at the Firehouse to continue formulating the state-mandated plan. Bud Rodgers is working on coordinating school emergency plans, Michael Storch has taken on transportation, Del Martin is working out medical responses, and Dean Amidon has volunteered to coordinate

media response. Volunteers for other areas are still needed. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 4, at the Firehouse.

Volunteers are needed during the beginning stages of the "Yours or Mine Shop" which will be opening at the transfer station soon. If interested call Bonnie Jurgenson at the Town Offices.

From the Roads

The good news is that the winter maintenance budget has not spiraled out of control. The roads have been well maintained even though we ran short of salt at the beginning of a recent storm due to delivery problems. We can store 180 tons at a time and it takes about six truckloads to fill the shed. The salt comes from Syracuse, N.Y.

The Highway Department purchased a Global Star satellite phone for \$599, plus \$35 per month for 30 minutes. This will enable contact with Mass Electric or in an emergency where a cell phone might normally be used.

All Aboard

At the request of Conservation Commission Chair Chris Blair, the Selectboard, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Planning Board met with the Conservation Commission on the evening of January 27 to review and coordinate procedures for the issuance of building permits. The goal is to make the process as straightforward as possible while enforcing town bylaws.

Currently the greatest concern appears to be residents and contractors who perform work without the proper permits.

In recent years the necessary paperwork has been consolidated into a packet with instructions. Administrative Assistant Bonnie Jurgenson is available to answer questions and move the process along.

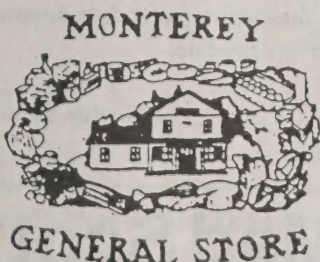
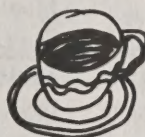
After reviewing their procedures and experiences, the boards considered what actions to take to ensure compliance with town bylaws. Enforcement of the building code is the job of the Building Inspector, who can issue stop work orders, require the removal of illegal structures, and levy fines. The Conservation Commission generally issues guidelines at the

outset of a project requiring their involvement but will consider increasing their oversight to make sure that projects are completed as described, perhaps including the issuance of liens. The Selectboard will consider requiring all contractors to register, as some towns, do before being allowed to work in town.

Education of prospective buyers during the purchase process could help them avoid future problems, an area where real estate agents could be helpful. Finally more boards might sign off on the Certificate of Occupancy. Circumventing town bylaws harms everyone by necessitating an increase in the work for town boards and regulation for everyone. Information on proper procedures is always available at the Town Offices.

Muriel Lazzarini announced that she will not seek reelection to the Selectboard when her term expires this spring. Many in town will miss her dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and sense of humor. Thank you, Muriel.

— Michele Miller



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New Monterey Pumper Ready for Fire and Ice

At 2:30 on the Friday afternoon of January 10, as the glinting sun dipped down toward the frozen winter horizon, with a blustery wind chill sinking well below zero, those of us who were waiting at the firehouse felt warmer right away when the new fire engine red pumper came to a stop on Main Road and slowly backed in over the asphalt apron toward its new home.

As it came to a stop, with its 505-horsepower engine (there's power enough to spare to pump 1500 gallons of water per minute) idling like the purr of a giant cat, the center door of the fire station slowly lifted and rattled overhead as if anticipating its arrival. Monterey volunteers appeared with a hose and wide brush to clean salt and sand from the undercarriage accumulated from a trip from Cromwell, Connecticut, where the proud Monterey logo and lettering were stencilled along the streamlined sides, after arriving from the K.L.M. Manufacturer near Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Once the glistening apparatus was squeaky clean, it was Shawn Tryon, a young volunteer, but also a NASCAR racing driver excelling at speeds up to 150 miles per hour, who first climbed up into the cab to get a feel of the controls. He is one of several young drivers who can handle the equipment, and rightfully so because it is their hands that will handle the modern technology in the first quarter of the twenty-first century for

Open House at Firehouse to View New Fire Engine

The Monterey Fire Department will hold an open house on Sunday, February 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The new 2003 KME fire engine will be on display, so come on out to see Monterey's new fire apparatus. Refreshments will be served

Monterey. But on that afternoon Shawn had to be content with a light foot on the pedal, to gingerly back it into the center bay; it still was not registered to go out on an emergency.

In the next twenty-five years, which is also the expected life of the engine, no one can predict the number of volunteers who will be qualified, so it is already designed to be operated with a minimum manpower. Along with a few good men, the triple combination capacity can carry 3,000 gallons of water, plus its own additional extensions of hoses and ground-standing ladders for rescue. When coupled with a hydrant, or its own portable container with another 3,000 gallons, its pumping potential can increase to 2,600 gallons per minute.

The body of the new engine is a few inches wider than the old one, as well as a few feet longer and higher, partially to accommodate the six-wheel driveshaft; the additional 15,000 pounds of traction weight on new tire treads will get it where

Burn Season Opens

Burning season is here again, from January 15, 2003, to April 30, 2003. Permits are required and can be obtained by calling 528-1734, the Highway Department Garage. Leave your name, phone number, and address of where you are burning. Permits are issued on the day you will burn and are not available in advance. Remember the rules:

1) Burning of brush only, no building debris.

2) No fires within 75 ft. of a building.

3) You must be tending the fire at all times.

4) Fires must be out by 4:00 p.m.

5) You are responsible for the fire and for any problems; keep it under control.

Permits will not be given out when, in the opinion of the Fire Chief, it is not safe to burn or atmospheric conditions are not conducive to good air quality.

— Monterey Fire Department

it is needed. Putting out a blazing inferno is a matter of fire and ice. The water cools down the temperature of a fire until it cannot burn.

By the time you read this, the new truck will be ready for action, somewhat earlier than anticipated, but hopefully not one day too late.

— George Emmons

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Daffodil Time

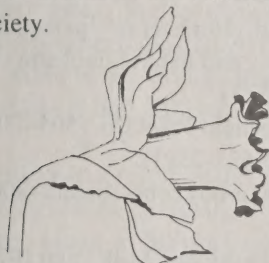
BUY DAFFODILS, HELP FIGHT CANCER, AND BRIGHTEN UP YOUR HOME. ORDER BY FRIDAY, FEB. 28th, PICK UP on WEDNESDAY MAR. 26th.

It is daffodil time again! We didn't do well last year with the General Store closed.—BUT we are back with bells on this year! Bonnie Marks, now at the General Store, has agreed to refrigerate, distribute, and also take orders for the daffodils.

Here's how you can order:

1. A telephone crew will be making some calls for orders.
2. OR you could call any one of them to order.
3. OR you may place your order at the Monterey General Store.

The FINAL DAY for ordering is FRIDAY, February 28. DELIVERY DAY is WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, at the Monterey General Store. PLEASE pick up your daffodils THEN! COST is \$6 a bunch PAYABLE WHEN you order. Make checks to: The American Cancer Society.



The callers are: Denise Andrus, 528-1723; Shelly Bynack; Ruth Champigny, 528-2856; Barbara Dahlman, 528-8287; Carol Edelman, 528-0006; Amy Goldfarb at Gould Farm; Stephanie Grotz, 528-4519; Maureen Hough, 528-0728; Ann Dinan, 528-0611; Michelle Miller, 528-4280 or 528-3454; and coordinators: Fran Amidon, 528-1233, and Pat Mielke, 528-5603. Call any of these for information or to order.

The daffodils are still budded, so they last a very long time and bring early spring into your home. Your donation will benefit the Cancer Society. Please tell your friends. Thank you for your past support. Monterey always is on the top in sales in Southern Berkshire.

— Fran Amidon

Glynis Oliver



The Konkapot in winter

How Is It Made? Cultural Council Seeks Local Artists for Event

The Monterey Cultural Council is seeking applications from local artists and artisans for a juried art event to be titled "How Is It Made?" With the idea of creating an educational opportunity for the community, we envision a broad range of artistic representation, from fine arts to hand craftsmanship. Thus the focus of the event will be on individual demonstrations of process and technique, with sales permitted. Accepted artists will be

expected to be prepared to discuss "how they do **what** they do" with the public in order to deepen everyone's appreciation for the skill, talent, and creative energy involved in producing the artwork.

The event will be held at the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion on Saturday, August 30, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No entrance fee is required nor commissions on sales charged. The application deadline for the first round of jurying is March 10; the number of participants will be limited, so be sure to apply now. For applications visit or call the Monterey Town Offices at 413-528-1443.

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February Community Dinner A Night Out in Monterey

Wednesday, February 12 is the next date for the Meetinghouse fellowship hall's monthly transformation into an elegant banquet hall and grand meeting place for a lively host of Monteruvians. Zed Pine is unable to do the program originally scheduled, and Bonner McAllester has graciously agreed to entertain and inform us with a presentation she calls "Bones and Hides of Our Wild Neighbors." Intrigued? If so, please come join us at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. As usual, bring a generous potluck dish to share and your own plates and silverware.

A resounding "Thank you" goes out to George Emmons for his fascinating presentation and photos of the Native American burial cairns in Monterey and to the Coffee Club for donating a ham for the holiday dinners.

— Kathie Frome

Republicans Seek Candidates for Elected Town Positions

The Monterey Republican Town Committee invites anyone interested in the following elected positions to write a letter stating their intentions and qualifications to the committee by Feb. 25. Letters should be addressed to Mark Makuc, PO Box 711, Monterey MA, 01245. The following positions are on

Coffeehouses at the Meetinghouse

Once a month for four months now the Monterey United Church of Christ has been hosting a coffeehouse in the fellowship hall, featuring live music by local musicians and the writing of local poets and writers. The proceeds go to benefit a number of causes, the most recent being the Monterey Ark, a \$5,000 commitment, for Heifer Project International. It has been a joy to discover the rich talent of so many who live in and around Monterey. Our next coffeehouse will be on Saturday, February 15, and will likely feature the bluegrass sounds of the Beartown Mountain Ramblers, the folk and blues of Elizabeth Ann Kemler, and the poetry of MaryKate Jordan. Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$8. Coffee, tea, and things to eat are served. The entertainment generally runs from 7-9:30 p.m.



the ballot this year: Board of Appeals, 5 years; Board of Assessors, 3 years; Board of Health, 3 years; Cemetery Committee, 3 years; Finance Committee, 3 years; 2 Library Trustees, 3 years; Moderator, 1 year; Park Commission, 3 years and 1 year; Planning Board, 5 years; Selectboard, 3 years; Town Clerk, 3 years; Tree Warden, 1 year. The caucus for nomination to the election in May will be held on THURSDAY, MARCH 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. All Republicans are urged to attend.

Green Corner Bulletin Interior Paints

Thinking of painting projects to freshen up your home? Along with the change in color, selecting a low VOC interior paint will help protect your family's health and the environment. Why? Because many paints contain VOCs (volatile organic compounds) which can cause problems affecting our health and air quality. Low VOC paints have fewer odors, easier clean up and are healthier for workers and air quality. Ask your local paint supplier or contractor for low VOC Paints. Here are a few paint products that I found in a quick search, along with contact names and telephone numbers. (No endorsement implied!)

Safe painting products to consider: (Shop locally when you can!)

- Benjamin Moore low VOC paint—Ask your local paint supply store.
- Safe Coat—Green Seal Standards—paints, cleaners, and carpet care (800-238-5008).
- HealthyHome.com—paints, bamboo flooring and natural linoleum (800-583-9523).
- Bio-Shield Paint Co. (505-438-3448 or 800-621-2591).
- Weatherbos.com—paints (800-884-3978).
- Old Fashioned Milk Paint (978-448-6336).

Other helpful hints: Reduce waste! Purchase only the amount you need. This is one place where "buying in bulk" creates a lot of waste.

What to do with left over paint? If you have leftovers that you would like to share, consider donating to a local theater group, community organization, or friend.

What about disposal? Dried-out unusable latex paint can be disposed of as trash. Oil-based paints, stains, or thinners need to be disposed of at a household hazardous waste collection event. All empty cans can be placed in your trash.

— June Rochedieu

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Senator Says Single-Payer Health Care

Massachusetts is widely respected around the country for its premier health care institutions. Unfortunately, health insurance has become increasingly expensive for citizens and employers alike. These high costs have diminished the number of citizens who can afford coverage, and prevent many employers from offering health insurance to employees. Many residents, regardless of their employment status, are unable to access even basic health care services. In fact, more than 400,000 individuals in the Commonwealth do not have any health insurance. Like many of my colleagues in the legislature, I find it unacceptable that our citizens cannot afford health care. Therefore, I have sponsored legislation establishing the Massachusetts Health Care Trust (MHCT), which will guarantee that all Massachusetts residents receives the health care coverage they deserve.

By moving from an inefficient, multi-payer health care system to a responsive, single-payer system, the Commonwealth can join every other industrialized country in the world by providing affordable and accessible health care to all of its citizens.

According to a recent report issued to the state legislature, the total cost of the health care system in Massachusetts in 2002 is more than \$41 billion. Of that, roughly 56 percent is paid for by public sources. However, as mentioned above, hundreds of thousands of our residents

do not qualify for assistance and are unable to afford these necessary services.

The MHCT is designed to restructure a health care industry that is mired in inefficiency and waste. Under the current system, the maze of insurance companies and health plans offer similar benefits, but all have separate administrative requirements. This drives up the cost of health care to the consumer and makes health insurance unaffordable for many residents. As a result, the uninsured are forced to either go without preventative care, or to use the emergency room for expensive treatment.

Several national and local studies have shown that a single payer system could reduce administrative costs associated with health care by 60 percent. In 1998, the Massachusetts Medical Society released findings from two studies that indicated that under a single-payer system, the Commonwealth could save enough money to provide comprehensive health coverage to all residents.

Under the new system, the MHCT would act as a public instrumentality and would purchase, monitor, and regulate all health-care-related services. The MHCT would pool all of the present state and federal health care dollars. It would also ensure that every resident is reimbursed for all medically appropriate health care services, offered by the provider of each resident's choice. By replacing the current mixture of public and private health care plans with one administratively efficient system, residents will enjoy an expansion of covered services, and improved health care facilities. Prescription costs

would be reduced as well, as the MHCT could negotiate reduced rates for bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals.

In practical terms, eligible participants in the system would include all Massachusetts residents and all nonresidents who work twenty or more hours per week in the Commonwealth, pay all applicable income and payroll taxes, and pay additional premiums established by the trust.

Also, it should be noted that private insurance would still be available to those who wanted to expand coverage for services, such as massage therapy or elective surgery, that may not be included in a single-payer system.

While implementing a new health care system cannot be done overnight, the bill I have filed provides for a smooth transition to the single-payer system. Residents would not have to change their providers and MHCT will have the ability to contract with present insurers and vendors. Also, while managed care and insurer contracting staff may be reduced by up to 40 percent, MHCT has a legislative directive to establish programs and training to create jobs for workers displaced by the new system.

Health care in Massachusetts has reached a critical juncture. During the years the Commonwealth experienced a surplus of funds, stresses on the health care system were often ameliorated with an increase of funding to certain programs. Now, during the present economic downturn, the state cannot afford to help our most needy citizens. A new system, the single-payer system, is an approach that will give health care access to all residents, a service that the present system clearly cannot provide.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



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Artistic Empowerment at IS183

"Too many of us are fearful of making art," says Nancy Kalodner, board president of IS183—the new name for the twelve-year-old art school that used to be called Interlaken School of the Arts. Founded by master weaver Sam Kasten and a group of his friends, including longtime Monterey resident Kalodner, IS183 is the only Berkshire organization whose sole mission is to help people create their own art.

Kasten's goal was to engage everyone in the empowering nature of artistic creation. To Kasten, one of the most gratifying results of the school's program is hearing people whose original reaction is "Oh, I can't do art" express incredulity after a class: "I never would have thought . . ." "I can't believe I did this." "It's changed my life."

Kasten was determined to create a place for hands-on art-making for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes. As Kalodner puts it, "IS183 attracts people with no artistic training as well as accomplished artists at the master senior level whose works sell for considerable sums of money. IS183 is about visceral engagement across the spectrum of ability."

This past fall, Maureen Banner, a nationally known crafts artist and Monterey resident, took "Clay, Smoke and Fire," a regularly offered ten-session pottery class. "My mother was a potter," says Banner, who started out as a potter but became a silversmith so she could work with her husband, Michael, also a talented silversmith. "It's wonderful to have a place like IS183 here," she says, noting that she and several friends will be taking a painting class there this summer with Julie Shapiro, another well-known Monterey artist.

Janet Reich Elsbach, IS183's first director, is a prime example of the institution's laid-back but serious artistic outlook. Trained in early childhood development, Elsbach says, "I only became attuned to art after marrying an oil painter who specializes in landscapes." Her custom as director was to drop in on classes to welcome students. On her way



Home of IS183 in Interlaken

to a meeting one day, she stopped by a class taught by Northampton felter Beth Beede, and was so entranced by what she saw that she skipped the meeting and "never looked back." Now she teaches felting at IS183 and elsewhere. Her work, typically sold through word-of-mouth, can also be seen at Sam Kasten's SKH Gallery in Great Barrington.

Monterey potter Ellen Grenadier, who is head of the school's Ceramics

Department, began teaching there even before they had a ceramics studio, doing valiant duty back then, hauling student work to her own studio for firing and then hauling it back to class. She reports that today their ceramic facilities are excellent, "with electric, gas and raku kilns." Grenadier runs a department with a core of three teachers, plus guest artists from all over the world who conduct workshops for a day, a weekend, or even weeklong intensives.

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Just in case you were wondering what to do with your school children on vacation in February, there's good news—IS183 in Stockbridge is offering two School Vacation Art Camps, February 17–21. If your little ones are between the age of five and seven, you can enroll them in Karen Arp-Sandel's "Everything Paper," which runs from 9 a.m.–noon. Students will make their own paper and use it for artistic projects, such as weaving and origami. If your children are a bit older, in the seven-to-ten-years-old range, then Michael Spitzer's "Working Wood, Paint and Pastels," from 10 a.m.–3 p.m., is the one to choose. In this class, students will create works out of wood, finishing them off with natural paints.

Grenadier is frank about how teaching has informed her own work. "Being with people who come to school to learn teaches me, too," she says. "Like other artistic areas, ceramics tends to be addictive—once you start on it, you don't want to stop."

"IS183 is a place where people find a piece of themselves by doing," says Kalodner. Elsbach goes even further: "The Berkshires are rich with culture, with so many performing arts venues

presenting a wealth of what is inspiring to witness. We're after establishing a place to immerse yourself and DO. That opportunity, not just to connect with your own, maybe hidden, creative aspect but to be a part of the creative energy around you, completes the cycle. It makes good things happen at the community level."

Taking a class at the school feels right, partly because it's housed in a national-landmarked 1870 village school and community center, a history quite compatible with its current use. Each season there are forty classes, workshops, and intensives serving about 1200 people, as young as three and as old as . . . well, considerably older than three. The summer season features thirty weeklong art camps for children, but there's always instruction for adults. For example, an upcoming weekend workshop, February 15–16, features New Marlborough painter Susan Hardcastle, who will teach Painting from a Model.

IS183 is a hospitable place, where everyone feels welcome. Because part of the school's mission is to provide financial support for those who can't afford the tuition, IS183 is in perpetual fundraising mode. This year's gala is the Red Ball on February 8. If you hurry, you might even be able to make a reservation at 413-298-5252.

—Laurily Epstein

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MMA Names Nuciforo Legislator of Year

The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) has named State Senator Andrea Nuciforo, Jr., as the Legislator of the Year.

This year the MMA honors Senator Nuciforo for his commitment to local government concerns throughout his career, especially for his leadership on the issue of local transportation funding. Senator Nuciforo fought to preserve flexibility and adequacy of the Chapter 90 program, the local road and bridge program. He was a strong and consistent voice for maintaining and increasing Chapter 90 funding levels.

The MMA is also honoring Senator Nuciforo for his principled vote in favor of freezing the tax rate at 5.3 percent to avoid devastating cuts to local aid and maintain core municipal services. To vote for taxes in an election year is the very definition of political courage.

The MMA presents this award annually to legislators who have shown an extraordinary commitment to local government. The organization, which provides advocacy, research and other services to the commonwealth's cities and towns, formally honored Senator Nuciforo at its 24th Annual Meeting and Trade Show at the Sheraton Boston Hotel on Friday evening, January 10.

The MMA is the private, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of cities and towns that provides its member communities a broad range of services, including lobbying and advocacy efforts, training and education, publications, policy research, insurance programs and management assistance.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

When I was a child, like many children, I was afraid of the dark, profoundly so in my middle-school years. The worst time of year was fall, when dusk would settle earlier and earlier each day, a creeping across the sky in late afternoon. I would stand beneath it on the soccer field while the rest of my teammates practiced, dread rising within me to overshadow me while everyone around me was hard at work—probably one of many reasons why I was never any good at the game, instead a benchwarmer who anxiously watched the sky.

Later, at home, the evening would tick on to eight o'clock, my bedtime, when in my room I would sit up trembling. I would listen for sounds of my parents, still up, and cling to the light in the hallway, still on, yet know that soon these too would fade. And when they did, I would sit in the dark, often in tears, with my bedroom window shades rolled up so I could see at least the lights in the night sky and watch for the coming morning.

I would imagine China now under the sun—where I had never visited and have not still—its black-haired people in crowded streets. Rushing around, they would be on bikes, on foot, pulling rickshaws, I imagined, wearing those flat black shoes and loose cotton clothing, and I would take some comfort in their supposed wakefulness. But ultimately

they were far away and I was here awake alone, as if those nearby who were asleep were so together and I was in some outer darkness of isolation, of invisibility, of non-being, where there was indeed—where there is indeed—weeping and gnashing of teeth.

According to theologian Douglas John Hall, the rudimentary failure of the church in the modern world has been its failure to understand and to communicate its doctrine of sin. He explains, "... there has always been a tendency in organized Christianity to reduce sin to something less than the original sense of rebellion against God, nature and life itself. Few have the courage to face the fact that the truth of our condition could be a rejection so pervasive and deep." And I agree, that rare indeed is the courage of faith needed to face this truth, that the state of being into which the fall has landed us is one of darkness and despair, anxiety and fear and profound need; truly, that the state of human being into which the fall has landed us—that mythological occurrence that speaks to a psychological and experiential reality of a fall, not merely into knowledge, but into the knowledge of good and evil; not merely into knowledge, but into the knowledge of darkness and light; that is, into a sudden and devastating understanding that the world in which we live, the world that lives in us, is complicated and conflicted and so confusing; into a sudden and dev-

astating understanding of dusky gray—is one in which, as often as we choose good, we choose evil, and, as often as we choose life, we choose death.

Again, according to Professor Hall, our state of human being is "ultimately a mystery too deep for us to understand and too devastating for us to face" for too prolonged a period of time. Furthermore, failing to understand it, to plumb its devastating depths, the church has instead allowed for sin's domestication—for sin to become sins, synonymous with immorality, synonymous even with simple bad behavior, something for which we are punished rather than for and by which we punish one another and ourselves, and in prevention of which the church becomes a self-help group. Worse still, in so neglecting the mysterious reality of sin, the church has allowed for Christianity itself to become, in both secular and sacred experience, merely a reminder of our guilt rather than a resource for us to be reconciled with God whose will is for our well-being; merely a guilty conscience rather than a resource for seeking redemption so that we might each and all together know joy as God intends; merely a reminder rather than truly a witness to the reality of, in the words of the medieval poet Thomas Ravenscroft, "God's goodness"; merely a reminder rather than truly a witness that we might "be not afraid," something the world sorely needs, for we are sore afraid.

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To my mind, in spite Mr. Bush's claim that we refuse to live in fear, we are sore afraid. This is a difficult thing to prove, as fear in America disguises itself so well, with all the power of the entertainment and advertisement industries behind the effort. It is a difficult thing to prove, as the experience of fear in America is one we so eagerly deny, so caught up are we in our pursuit of happiness, as is our right. Nevertheless, to my mind, we are sore afraid, as our workdays and weeks stretch out to be the longest in the industrialized world; as our lives fill up with errands for the adults, lessons for the children, activities for the elderly, exercise for the family pet; as our homes overflow with so much stuff as if it all might truly decrease our essential need; as we are busier than ever but perhaps no more satisfied; as we are wealthier than ever but likely less fulfilled; as our nation is one of the most stable and secure in the world while we the people are psychologically among the least so; as we too often export great suffering so as not to have to feel it even minimally here at home, all as the world whirls on at a seemingly increasingly fierce rate of speed. Theologian L. Gregory Jones writes, "Within American society, we have tried increasingly hard to conquer our fears through security measures, increasingly sophisticated monitoring devices, gated communities and the promise of an overpowering use of force. But have these cast out our fears," he asks, "or have they only diminished our capacity to love?"

For, of course, only love can truly cast out fear.

Only love can disperse the power, even the relevance, of fear.

Only love can make it so that we might truly be not afraid, which was indeed Christ's purpose in coming—that we might not see ourselves as essentially alone; that we might not feel ourselves to be eternally isolated; that we might not experience our lives as merely a sickness unto death through which it's best just to keep busy; that we might not experience the world as merely the brutal and loveless valley of the shadow of death, and our journey through it a mere series of accidents; that we might not continue in our fall as we half-heartedly convince ourselves, "That's life"; that we might not despair but hope; that we might not fear but love; that we might not wither and die but live on and love on, nothing halfhearted about it. During this season of Epiphany, we are celebrating at church the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, indeed the presence of God-with-us, who, having become clothed in human flesh, having taken on human nature, having broken into human history, having come to live in face of



Glynis Oliver

Kuan Yin watching over the winter

death, having confronted the enemy of life in truth and love, having been crucified and resurrected, God in Christ, that is God-with-us, embodies the communion that draws all humanity together, reveals the sacred in the fleshly and natural, teaches the possibility for good works in this world, lifts the veil of death that eternal life might begin here and now, gives the world eyes to see and hearts to believe in the power of truth and love to overcome, leads in the purpose and way eternal, that we may truly "be not afraid."

— Elizabeth Goodman

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Venus Like A Beacon

Venus like a beacon

*bright in the late night sky
was all that woke Baby Rolo,
rubbing the old year out
from his not yet wide eyes
He had been dreaming long
and strong of the garden,
his strolls with Bro Nello,
in the time between war
and threats of war before,
the barbed barriers taut
with thought of ownership
and righteousness, despite
the sprouting green of grain
aspiring toward the sky,
sweet roses petalling
ethers exposing all
beyond the I and Me,
cruel land mines of Mine
the steam gently rising
from his new morning tea
streaming up toward Venus
past limb whitened landscapes
daring each hand and eye
offer significance*

*when out from the darkness
strolled Bro Nello stretching
his tall humor starward
leaning up toward Venus
in the mudra of light
saying "Pour me some tea
Rollo, my cup's empty!"
Baby Rolo replied,
his hair now getting wild
pouring, as tea should be:
"time, like tea, flows and drips
into the gratefulness
of sky like an old cup,
faces refelcted as stars
and Venus the genius
that will lead us all in
to the newborn morning"
Bro Nello sipped slowly
staring and wondering
into his cup of sky
which bright star he might be*

— Boney Oscar
R. Zukowski

Wistfully

*shall I accompany you at death?
in that bed in the room in the center of our home

shall I care for you?
as you pass from this life to next
turning touching bathing speaking

in whispers astimequickensyourbreath

if I slip away curled beside you
waken me with a dream
so I may bid your eyes goodbye

your soul I'll meet again
in mirth*

— Claudia Weldon

Weather Report

Someone said, "this is the weather
that prepares us for death's lair"
some say "it prepares us for
the sweet lands past the golden door"
there are others who could care less,
and do, fearing the perilous
absence of sunshine, or just change,
fearing that the wind would turn strange
and then there are those with power
who dare make these dark clouds cower
beneath them, as if to teach old
Nature herself who's in control
and that peace is something they bring
to her, as well as love and spring
some elder might use the pregnant
sky, cold, and dark as elements
to forge a knife of his own shit
and hone the blade with his own spit
once frozen, sacrifice a friend
to make a sled of bone and skin
to feed and hitch the others, all
flying deep towards the Mother's Call
middle finger like a pennant
waving back at those lieutenants
of timber and petroleum,
iron ore and uranium

the moon, frozen in its whiteness,
slips its round head through the tight nest
of black clouds, long enough to say
"this! is what shapes us in our play,
depending on what strings you bring
to play with, on what songs you sing."

—Boney Oscar
R. Zukowski
1/03

Breakfast: in memoriam

I pour you a cup of fragrance: coffee
my hand rests on the bony warmth
of your shoulder
through the clean blue of your shirt.
The sun glances off the glisten of your hair
as you talk, casual
about something with someone —
male voices rumbling.

That touch in common day
flushes me proud knowing secrets: other touches tendered —
your whispered voice at night.

The light shines up through green apples
bananas and rosy grapes
from the sun's bowl centered on the
warm square of wood.

That instant flooded suddenly a great radiance
lit from within with the Life of life
a pellucid presence afar!

Whose voice in the silence taught me?
Share this moment with the god in your heart to keep it forever:
the warm shoulder, the blue shirt —
all that you were, my love
you are.

— A. O. Howell

Pussy Willow

Little Pussy Willow,
Through the winter's cold you slept.
When you felt the warm spring sunshine
From your shell you crept.
You laughed as the brook leaped with joy
When the ice began to break;
Then a Redwing called to welcome spring,
And you were wide awake!

— Eleanor Kimberley

Animals in the Cold

Early in January winter became snowy and cold. People went out to do battle with the drifts and wondered if there might be a better brand of snow shovel by now, with a new sort of twist in the handle or coating on the blade, anything to improve the odds in favor of our bodies as we confronted the truth about winter in the northeast.

Of course we are not alone in our adaptive efforts. All creatures that continue to live here year after year, surviving long enough to reproduce and pass along their genes or their wisdom (which we now know may be the same thing), have figured out some way to make it through the winter.

Little birds like the brown creeper cut off heat supply to their distant appendages and focus on keeping the core alive. Their delicate legs are designed with a heat exchange system whereby the cold venous blood returning to the core passes close beside the arterial blood which leaves the body at more than 100 degrees. In this way the venous blood is warmed a little before it hits the core and the arterial blood, freshly infused with oxygen for the chilly cells of the feet and toes, arrives already chilled. The temperature is not as important as the oxygen.

Some animals shut way down for the winter, entering a dormant state called hibernation. In the case of the bats and many insects, hibernation is coma-like and involves a major slowing of metabolism including pulse and breathing. Some

animals, like our own ancient hens for example, just fluff up and quiet down. They still eat and breathe and keep their bodies warm but they do not jump around much or make chicken talk. They don't make eggs, either. When the days get longer they will perk up, but right now



they are saving their energy for essential survival.

In mid-January, many of us human animals began looking nervously at the weather predictions as we planned for a

day outdoors in Washington, D.C. We considered our wardrobes, looked critically at venerable long underwear, and wondered if some better space-age material had come along which we should consider. We shopped for chemical toe-warmers that mustn't go against your skin. In the end we climbed on the buses, carrying our warmest socks and hats, and hoped for the best.

Washington was cold. As the people began pouring in during the early morning, I noticed that some young folks don't seem to need all the wrappers I do. When they are little babies we bundle them up to the hilt, but once they get big enough to choose their attire our next generations can be as dauntless as the brown creepers. Kids in sweatshirts, no hat. Me in down mittens (well, ONE down mitten—somehow I left one of them on the bus), kids with hands shoved in jeans pockets. Me in three pairs of pants.

I have read that a fox without a tail will freeze to death because the way it settles for the night involves a particular arrangement of the tail over the nose and feet. For me, in Washington, it was my new red scarf and the way I tucked it under my chin. I never did activate the toe-warmers because I felt that jamming anything more into my footgear would adversely affect the circulation of the arterial blood to my precious extremities.

We kept walking for a couple of hours, not hurting too bad but still miffed with our bus driver who put us out of the warm bus so early. We practiced philosophy: now we get some idea of what it is like to live around here with no heat, or no home. Now we can better appreciate



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our good fortune in having a splendid woodpile back home in Monterey. We practiced tourism: so THAT's the Library of Congress! The sun hit the golden thing on top and looked to me like a solid gold garlic. Cora, who is younger and whose eyes don't run so much in the cold, informed me that the thing was a torch with a gold flame.

We kept warm by walking along the mall and discovered a building of the Smithsonian opening at 9:00! This was our unexpected boon, the warm-up cabin not usually available to brown creepers or foxes. We slid right in there and began taking off our layers. What good fortune to be citizens of a country that has a capitol city with a museum such as this, with heat and welcoming staff and a coffee shop with tables and orchids and a fountain! Soon the exhibits opened and we went into a room full of tropical butterflies. If I thought I was dreaming when I spotted the golden garlic, I knew I was living in a miracle when I saw the butterflies and hundreds more orchids in this exhibit.

In the end we went out again. We saw a sea of concerned citizens from all

over this country come to protest the push toward war. We saw a young man dressed only in his underwear, shaking all over as his body did its best to carry on despite his version of antiwar art: draw peace signs on my body, sign your name for peace. He held a fistful of black markers in each hand. The only thing keeping him warm besides his shivering were these testimonials for peace.

We saw a young person in a sweatshirt that read; "One Less Car." I thought about keeping warm and our dependence upon oil, how we warm our visiting tropical butterflies, how we fuel our buses. The foxes and creepers have been here so long, using energy conservation, heat exchange, and insulation. Can we do this? Not all butterflies and orchids are tropical. We have our own lady slippers and mourning cloaks, surviving year-round residency in the frozen north. To what extent would we be willing to hunker down in the cold times, to curb our restlessness and migrations in order to end our dependence upon oil and all the sorrow this has brought?

The plants and animals have evolved brilliant solutions to the problems of bitter cold. Instead of wringing our hands over the consequences of some of our own not-so-brilliant solutions, we should be out in the bright woods looking for tiny brown birds with cold toes. If they can make it, we can.

— Bonner J. McAllester

NOTICE

In accordance with the directive from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), the Town of Monterey is now in the process of formulating the required Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

In the event of an emergency, Monterey's Emergency Response Manager will need to know where and what types of transportation would be available within the town for possible medical and/or emergency evacuation.

If you have or have access to any of the following types of transport the Town will need to know if they can be made available in an emergency to be used by the Emergency Response Manager:

Bus
4-Wheel Drive Van/Car
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Station Wagon
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ATV
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Snowmobile
Motorcycle

Please contact Michael Storch, the Emergency Transportation Coordinator (528-3136), at the Monterey Firehouse to register with the LEPC the type of transport you can make available in an emergency.

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The Stafford family in 1924 (left to right): William, Edith, Gordon, Earle, Evalyn (Shelton was not yet born.)

Tea Room Tales

Returning to Childhood Roots: The Gordon Stafford Story

In 1918 Swann Forest (now part of Beartown State Forest lands) was an original 978-acre bequest to the Commonwealth by Susan Ridley Sedgwick Swann in memorial to her late husband, Arthur Warton Swann.

Swann State Forest in Monterey would forever be unique among State

Forests in Massachusetts in several ways. Dedicated by Susan as a permanent protectorate for "animals, birds and fishes," hunting would therefore never be allowed. Its beautiful woodlands had never experienced fire and so offered as rich and varied a landscape as found anywhere in the Berkshires, including twenty-four different varieties of trees; because of its unique ecology and compact size the Department of Conservation selected Swann State Forest to become "an experimental forest," thereby taking a lead

in the fledgling new science of forestry.

In 1920 the state budgeted \$10,000 for an "extensive experimental planting" to begin here, and so the very next year an energetic and enthusiastic young forester, Earle Stafford, and his family took up residence at the Swann State Forest Headquarters. The headquarters compound was composed of eight structures—a main house, various barns and sheds, and an ice house—and sat at the junction of Brett and Swann Roads. It was here the four Stafford children grew up, playing amid forest and wildlife as their father, Supervisor Stafford, began his experiments.

Earle Stafford planted conifers from Japan and China, spruce from Switzerland, firs from Germany and pine from Scandinavia in anticipation of a time when an indigenous species such as white pine might vanish, as the chestnuts were vanishing. He wanted to make certain that a suitable replacement had been identified and that proper techniques for successfully growing them had been established.

Swann State Forest HQ was a few miles from town and travel was some-

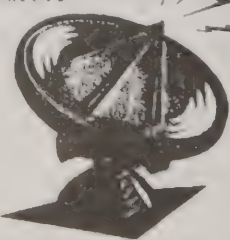
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"The Lodge", Swan Forest, Monterey, Mass.



The post card that Gordon Stafford wrote to his father from Tryon's Tea Room. The address on the reverse side read: "Mr. Earle Stafford, 143 Del Playa Rd., Goleta, Calif." The message read: "Feb. 11, 1957 Mon. 5:40 p.m. Dear Dad— A familiar sight, now snowy. All is cold but has been above 40° with warm days. Leave for NYC tomorrow after hearing and tape-recording the annual Town Meeting today. You should recognize many of the participants. Many inquired after you. More by tape in couple of days. Love, Dood [Gordon] & Ruth [Gordon's wife, now deceased]"

times difficult, yet the family relished those Sundays when they could attend church in town center and later stop by Tryon's Tea Room for a soda. With great fondness Gordon Stafford says today, "I have a warm spot in my heart for Wallace [Tryon]" because he was so interested in "local folks and [their] doings". Gordon also remembers Nina Tryon as "exceedingly nice" to all the children who came there.

In 1941 and soon after the death of their mother, Edith, the Staffords moved away. Yet throughout these sixty-odd intervening years Gordon has retained many childhood friendships established here in Monterey, and has made periodic journeys back to his family's roots at Swann State Forest.

On one such visit—a snowy February day in 1957—he and his first wife Ruth (now deceased) stopped into Tryon's

Tea Room, as had been done so many years before. They soon spotted a picture postcard in the glass case of old Swann Lodge, and as they sat enjoying sodas at one of the many wooden tea room tables they inscribed this loving message to elderly retired forester Earle Stafford, in California.

— Eileen Lawlor,
with oral history and artifacts
supplied by Gordon Stafford

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Post script: As part of this ongoing oral history project, if you have a Tea Room tale (and would be willing to be interviewed by Eileen), please call 528-7916.

30

Notes from Greenhaven Farm Inch by inch, row by row . . .

My love of gardening goes back a long way. The seed was planted, so to speak, when I was very young and growing up right here in Monterey.

The first garden I remember was the one at Gould Farm. Back in the mid-1940s it occupied the same place it does today. My memories are vague, since I lived there from infancy only until about age five. My father, Ray Ward, was the farm manager during those war years, responsible for the agricultural end of things. I do remember the soft brown earth ribbed with long rows of green things, and I remember the thrill of digging potatoes on cool fall days. Our job (my sisters' and mine) was to follow the mechanical potato digger and find any it had left behind, scoop them up, and toss them onto the conveyor belt. We felt so important!



So often we adults are completely unaware that the things we do or say can leave a lasting impression on a child, but such was the case with me and Mr. Persip. He lived in the house on the right about halfway up the hill from the Monterey village going toward Great Barrington. It is yellow now, but was red then and much smaller. We lived across the road and up the hill, in the old parsonage next to the Bynacks. My father had left Gould Farm by then and had become the pastor of the Monterey Congregational Church.

Mr. Persip was an elderly gentleman, and as far as I know he was the only black man in Monterey. He was certainly the only black man I had ever seen up close, and I was a bit in awe of him on that account alone. He wore baggy overalls and a floppy hat and always seemed to be kind of dusty—from working in his garden no doubt. He was a cheerful man, and friendly. He grew a superb garden—large, lush, orderly, and completely free of weeds. It was gorgeous, and I admired it passionately even as a young child. The miracle of it all was, he was blind! I marveled then and marvel still. I asked him once how he did it, especially how he could

keep it so neat and tidy and weed-free. He kindly explained that he did it by touch. He could distinguish one plant from another and the weeds from the young seedlings by touching them. His vegetables were as large and beautiful as any I've ever seen. He even grew celery. And he had a pet crow that he had tamed and trained to talk. It kept him company, often sitting on his shoulder as he worked in the garden. My sisters and I were enchanted. I promised myself that someday I would have me a garden as beautiful and wonderful as his.

Last summer Steve and I had several opportunities to show children our garden. We encouraged them to walk along the rows, carefully, noticing the variety of growing things and tasting as they went. Most had never eaten a raw string bean before nor seen how tomatoes, squashes, and beets grow. Who knows what kind of impression our garden made on them? I'd like to think that at least one of them was inspired.

— Sally Pullen



CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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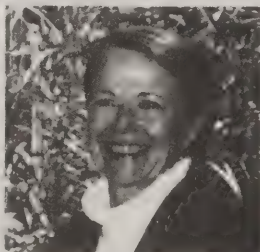
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The Thread of the Story: Traditional Kuna Molas

Traditionally, the Kuna people favor the fiber art form known as reverse appliqué to depict the plants and animals which share their island universe. Embellished with simple surface embroidery, the pieces vibrate with color and vitality. By the very nature of the techniques—or are the techniques the result of a specific worldview?—the creatures take on an abstract, ethereal quality. These molas, then, are more images of the spirit which animates the life forms than of the physical forms themselves.

In the sea turtle illustration, a piece of black cotton was first laid over a background fabric, a deep burgundy cotton. "Reverse appliqué" is a "subtractive" process: the upper, in this case black, fabric, was cut and then tucked under and stitched back, to reveal not only the burgundy below, but also strips of yellow, orange and green tucked in as middle layers.



The fish, their tiny black eyes, the turtle's shell and the turtle's eye are all made by traditional appliqué, the "additive" process of simply stitching one fabric on top of another. To highlight spots where the burgundy cloth has again been revealed by reversing the upper layer, more bright colors are appliquéd in the areas surrounding the sea turtle and fish: pink, turquoise, brown, white,

green, deep blue, sky blue, purple, fuschia. Almost all of the embroidery on this piece is done in chain stitch, at about ten single stitches to the inch, using only single strands of embroidery floss. In addition, lines of running stitch appear in double strands of floss on the heads of the fishes.

The artist who created this piece has, again in the traditional manner, combined color and beauty with the economy required by what we describe as Third-World poverty. That practical economy comes into play again on the back of the piece. Beneath the burgundy cotton which is the bottom layer of the appliqué work, another layer of cheap printed floral and striped cotton is added for stability and to anchor the embroidery work. Traditional Kuna molas seem to invite meditation. In fact, spending time with this one is almost like snorkeling.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Workshops on Natural Lawns and Gardens

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) together with the Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association (WMMGA) is offering free presentations to community organizations, garden clubs, and the general public on how to maintain natural lawns and gardens. Seasoned and novice gardeners can learn simple, preventative measures that can eliminate or reduce the need for chemical pesticides. The Master Gardeners also answer specific questions on their hot line and website and offer free soil testing in the spring and summer.

The presentation will explain an age-old, commonsense approach to garden and lawn care called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Based on maintaining the balance of nature to create and maintain landscapes, this approach focuses on building healthy soil so that plants thrive and are less susceptible to drought, weeds, and pests.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in 1997 homeowners in the United States used about 76 million pounds of pesticides on their lawns and gardens. Improper disposal and spills of pesticides cause serious water contamination problems. Even when pesticides are applied correctly, the chemicals can travel into streams, rivers, and groundwater. The United States Geological Survey found pesticide residues in almost all the streams and rivers sampled, and in nearly half of the drinking water wells tested.

Pesticide exposure has been linked to poisonings, learning disabilities in children, increased incidences of several kinds of cancers, and reproductive and endocrine disruption. Bees, butterflies, songbirds, and fish are often inadvertently

harmful by pesticide applications.

There are ways to avoid these potential threats, both indoors and out. CET can also provide a presentation on "Creating Healthy Homes," which looks at toxic chemicals found inside many homes. Landscapers, facility managers and municipal employees who manage town lands are invited to attend a free introduction IPM on January 31 at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington. Through funding from the USDA, CET can help schools and day-care centers comply with the Children's Protection Act, which requires implementation of an integrated pest management plan in order to minimize children's exposure to chemical pesticides at school.

To invite CET and WMMGA to attend an event or give a presentation, or to receive more information about any of these programs, please contact CET at 1-800-238-1221 or joyk@cetonline.org.

CET is a nonprofit resource conservation and waste-management organization with offices in Northampton, Pittsfield, and Springfield. WMMGA is a nonprofit organization comprised of trained Master Gardeners who

have completed a demanding study program and volunteer to work with the public to receive a Master Gardener Certificate. To reach the Master Gardener's hot line please call 413-298-5255 or visit <http://www.wmassmastergardeners.org>.

These services are supported by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, USDA Rural Utilities Service, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

— Joy Kirschenbaum,
Waste Management Specialist
Center for Ecological Technology



PO Box 9, 01245

Peace March 2

To the Editor:

This is your Washington reporter again, just filing a report on the most recent Peace Demonstration, January 18, 2003. If you were unable to go yourself you should rely upon eyewitness reports of trusted friends. The newspapers I have seen reported the numbers as "tens of thousands" or "30,000" or "one of the largest crowds in recent times, say park police." These accounts do not begin to tell it like it was. As I think about this matter, the body count, I feel it is particularly important in these times when so many forces are at work to make us feel isolated, defeated, hopeless.

I was able to go to Washington. I was one of the lucky 500,000 who could afford the bus fare, bear the cold, get the time off from work and family to make the trip. I went for personal gratification, so I wouldn't feel so lonely, and I also went so I could come home and tell what I saw.

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How do I know there were half a million people? I trust the people who made this estimate and I don't trust the papers. Also, there were just masses and masses of people pouring in from various bus drop-off locations all morning. We filled the street for 24 city blocks as we walked to the Navy Yard after the speeches on the Mall. Sometimes we filled it mores sparsely, sometimes more tightly. When we were gathered on the Mall we spilled off onto the side streets and people were still arriving.

Here is the bottom line. We might have been 400,000 or we might have been 700,000. What matters is what it felt like. It felt like a movement, like hundreds of thousands of people who cared, who traveled, who made signs and did street theater and played drums and bagpipes. It felt like America talking. I suggest that anyone who has not been out in the cold to hear this make the trip to New York City on February 15. America will be talking that day. Details of this march are available on UnitedforPeace.org and buses are being arranged locally.

— Bonner J. McAllester, Monterey



Support the General Store

To the Editor:

Stopping once again at the Monterey General Store, I was delighted to find fresh cinnamon rolls—and a friendly butcher who tailor-trimmed slab bacon for me. I live in Great Barrington, was only at the store once before (this summer) under the current ownership. Perplexed as to its status—great bakery and nice meat selection BUT NO SIT-DOWN. I asked a Monterey resident about this. Received a big-long saga of health code re: septic and Conservation Commission regulations.

Yeah—OK, I know there are reasons and laws and change of ownership, etc. All I can say is, you have a treasure there—good food, a pleasant butcher, lovely location (historic, convenient, spacious)—and it is going to waste because there is a lack of harmony and can-do mindset.

The Southfield store has closed, as have many other former rural outposts. Please, people of Monterey, unite to allow full use of this charming asset. And, meanwhile, support the store—it's great.

— Pat Mullin, Great Barrington

Road Salt

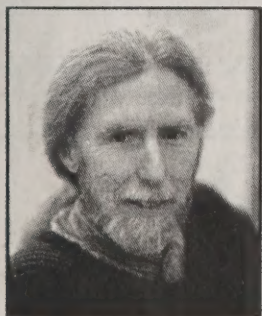
To the Editor,

After several years of increased use of road salt I have noticed an increased number of dead and dying trees along the roadsides. The number of rotting brake and gas lines (not to mention car bodies) in the fleet I help maintain has risen as well. It was good news therefore to read in the January issue that the Highway Department is seeking ways to reduce the amount of salt used.

I do wonder though about the statement saying that mixing "Clear Lane" with salt reduces the corrosiveness of salt to less than that of tap water. The way I've read the material, using "Clear Lane" by itself has the same corrosiveness as tap water. Adding the material to salt will make the salt more effective thus lessening the amount you need to use. That is a step in the right direction. Hopefully more steps can be taken to reduce salt use further.

— Dan Lacey, Monterey

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Remembering Laura Gaccione

Laura Ann Gaccione, 48, of 196 Main St., Lee, died January 8 at home, following a long battle with colon cancer.

Born in Bronxville, N.Y., on June 10, 1954, daughter of Rose Salvati Gaccione and the late John F. Gaccione, she graduated in 1978 from the State University of New York at New Paltz with a degree in English. She earned a master's degree in journalism in 1994 from Northeastern University in Boston.

She held a variety of writing and teaching positions since moving to the Berkshires from Boston eight years ago. In Monterey she is remembered for serving as the editor of *The Monterey News* following Peter Murkett's tenure. Most recently she was the Southern Berkshire correspondent and photographer for iBerkshires.com and a Western Massachusetts correspondent for The Associated Press.

She coauthored two books: a reference book, *Health and Illness, A Cross-Cultural Encyclopedia*, published in 1997 by ABC-CLIO Inc., and *Lakota Healing, A Soul Comes Home*, published in 1999 by Station Hill Arts. She produced a video interview with her friend, Monterey author Alice O. Howell, titled "Berkshire Profiles: Alice O. Howell," broadcast on KCBY television. She also produced two

videos of her family with her partner, Kirk Swiss, titled "A Gaccione Family Reunion" and "A Salvati Family Memoir."

A dedicated volunteer at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, she was instrumental in initiating their recently opened public information center.

Besides her mother, of Peekskill, N.Y., she leaves her partner of 4½ years, Kirk Swiss, with whom she made her home; and three brothers, Peter Gaccione of Boston and Cape Cod, John Paul Gaccione of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., and Tom Gaccione of Huntington Beach, Calif.

A memorial service was held on January 18 at Laura's church, the Monterey Church of Christ. Donations can be made to Hospice Care in the Berkshires Inc., 369 South St., Pittsfield, MA 01201, to whom Laura's family and friends express profound gratitude for the heartfelt care they provide.



Personal Notes

Birthday salutations go out to **Gige O'Connell** on the 1st, **Mark Makuc** on the 2nd, **Mike Mielke** on the 7th, **Bob Rausch** on the 9th, **Cristina Temenos** and **Barbara Bonner** on the 10th, **Jack Jefferson** and **Lanny Lanoue** on the 14th, **Dave Gauthier** on the 15th, **Maryellen Brown** and **Arnold Pratt** on the 16th, **Kim Gero** on the 18th, **Rachel Rodgers** on the 20th, **Georgianna Eschen** on the 21st, **Maggie Clawson** and **Dick Tryon** on the 22nd, **Jim Edelman** on the 23rd, **Mark Amstead** on the 26th, **Paul Makuc**, **Morgan Schick** and **Kayla Snyder** on the 27th.

Anniversary greetings go out to **Arnold and Judy Hayes** on the 13th and **Don and Pat Amstead** on the 27th.

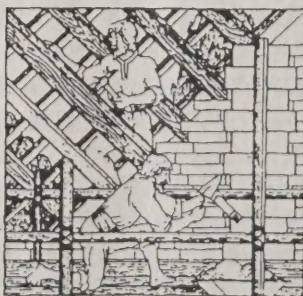
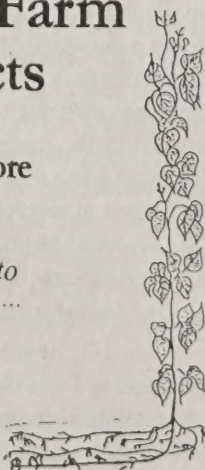
Congratulations to **Rachel Rodgers** and **Jeff Dolhanczyk** on the announcement of their marriage October 26, 2002, at the Rodgers' family home. Rachel is the daughter of **Cathy and Bud Rodgers** of Main Road. Rachel is the curator at The Cape May County Museum, New Jersey. She is pursuing her masters in museum education at The University of The Arts in Philadelphia. Jeff is an engineer with The Southern Railroad of New Jersey. They are residing in Dennisville, N.J.

— Deborah Mielke

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Calendar

Every Monday (except holidays):

Selectboard meeting, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, Town Offices.

Sunday, February 2: Groundhog Day

Tuesday, February 4: Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting at Firehouse. Call Town Hall, 528-1443 for time.

Monday, February 10: Public Access Board meets to discuss fate of the Town Beach. Call Town Hall, 528-1443 for time.

Wednesday, February 12:

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Community Dinner, 6 p.m. Meetinghouse fellowship hall. See p. 6.

Thursday, February 13: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Friday, February 14: Valentine's Day

Saturday, February 15: Coffeehouse 7–9:30 p.m. Meetinghouse fellowship hall. See p. 6.

Sunday, February 16:

Full Moon

Open House at the Firehouse 1–3 p.m. to view new fire engine. Refreshments served.

Monday, February 17: Town Offices closed in observance of Presidents Day.

The Observer

December 26–January 25

High temp. (1/1)	47°
Low temp. (1/18)	-13°
Avg. high temp.	25.0°
Avg. low temp.	9.8°
Avg. temp.	17.4°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	5.57"
Snowfall	40"
Precipitation occurred on 24 days. There has been measurable snow or rain or 47 of the last 61 days.	

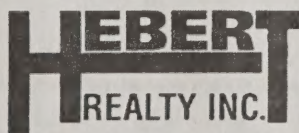
Contributors

We are grateful to the following for recent contributions to the *News*.

Highland Communities Initiative
Irv & Louise Halstead

Saturday, February 22: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Jim Gregory. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$6, children \$3. For information call 528-9385.

Friday, February 28: Have you ordered your daffodils yet? Last day to do so. See p. 5.



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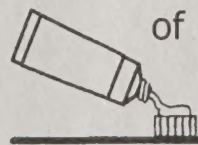
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Contributions from local artists this month:

Pat Arnow, pp. 2, 3; Maureen Banner pp. 20, 21, 22;
Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Glynis Oliver, pp. 5, 18.

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